

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer




2007 NOV 27 AM 9:34

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

CHAIRMAN GRAY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: NOV 27 2007

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Frank Harris, Jr. Justice Amendment Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-436, Committee Print

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend D.C. Official Code § 24-501(f) to provide exceptions to the current District law regarding charges for hospitalization of the mentally ill. Under current District law, if an accused person is acquitted solely on the ground of insanity and subsequently ordered to confinement in an institution for the mentally ill, then he or she (or his or her estate) is charged with the expenses of supporting the confinement in the institution. The proposed legislation would exempt a person acquitted solely on the basis of insanity from being charged for his or her confinement expenses if the person's funds (from which the District is seeking compensation) were obtained from a judgment against or settlement with the District relating to the District's care of the accused person.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. It is possible that the proposed legislation could result in additional costs to

the District in the future, through uncompensated care in institutions for the mentally ill, but it is not possible to estimate the magnitude of this eventuality.